

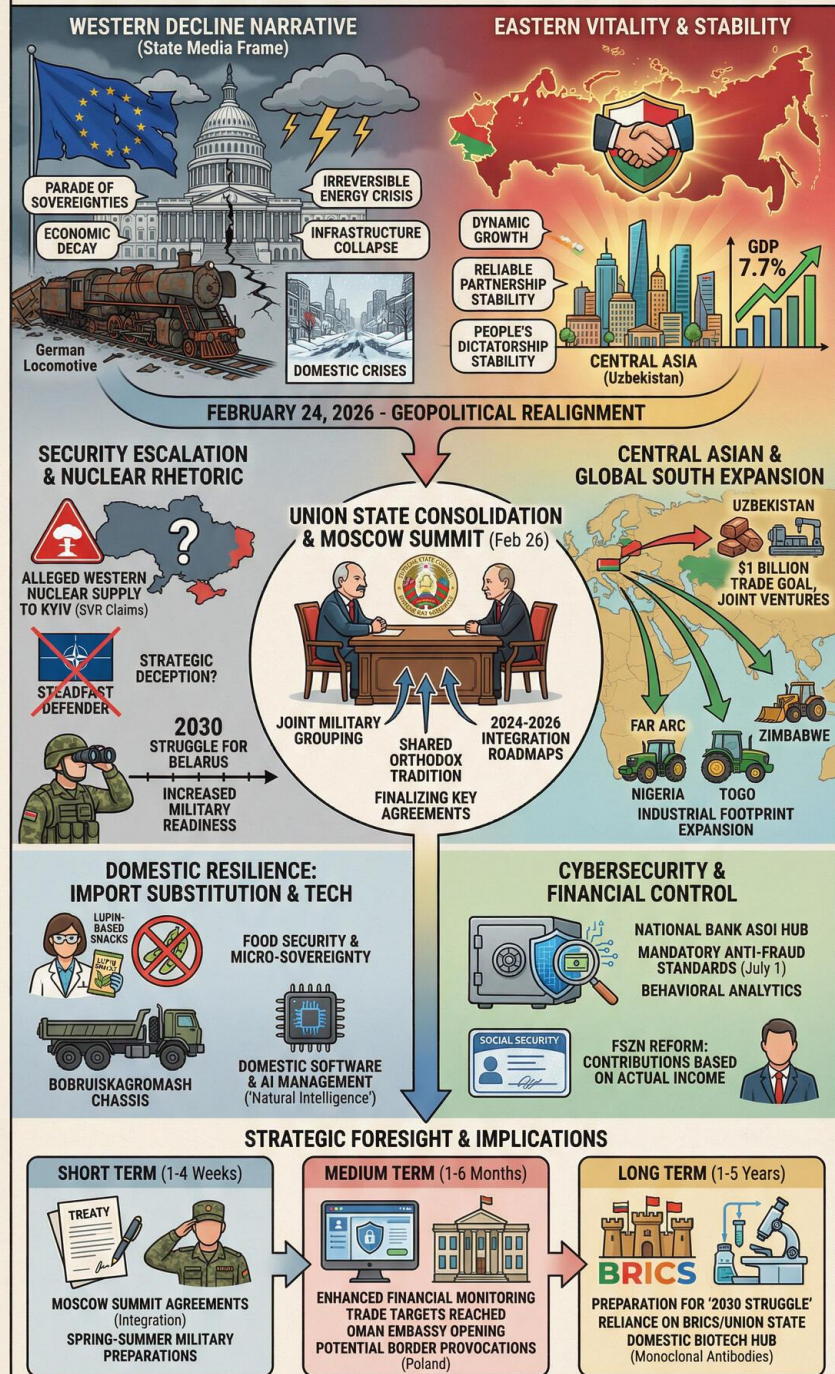
# TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

## BELARUSTV

FEBRUARY 24, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

### BELARUS 2026: UNION STATE INTEGRATION & EASTERN PIVOT IN A POLARIZED WORLD



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BELARUS BOLSTERS UNION STATE  
INTEGRATION AND CENTRAL ASIAN  
TRADE AS STATE MEDIA FRAMES  
WESTERN EUROPE AS A  
CRUMBLING, AGGRESSIVE BLOC  
FACING SYSTEMIC COLLAPSE.

### DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

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February 24, 2026, marks a period of intensive geopolitical realignment for the Republic of Belarus, characterized by deepening integration with the Russian Federation and an aggressive "Pivot to the East" and Global South. The primary focus of the day's coverage is the upcoming Supreme State Council of the Union State in Moscow, scheduled for February 26, where President Lukashenko and President Putin are expected to finalize [key integration roadmaps](#) for 2024-2026. This move is framed as a necessary defense against a Western Europe described as being in the throes of a "parade of sovereignties" and economic decay, exacerbated by a "rusting German locomotive" and an irreversible energy crisis. State narratives emphasize Belarus as a "People's Dictatorship" providing stability in a turbulent world, contrasting this with a

portrayed collapse of infrastructure and social order in the United States and the European Union.

On the international stage, Belarusian diplomacy is exceptionally active in Central Asia and Africa. A high-level government delegation in Uzbekistan has secured contracts worth millions, aiming for a [billion-dollar trade turnover](#). Simultaneously, Belarusian industrial giants like Bobruiskagromash are expanding their footprint in "Far Arc" countries, including Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and the [Togolese Republic](#). This economic expansion is coupled with heightened security rhetoric; Russian and Belarusian officials are reacting to alleged intelligence reports suggesting that the UK and France may secretly supply Ukraine with [nuclear weapons](#). This serves to justify increased military readiness and the consolidation of the regional military grouping with Russia.

### MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

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#### Union State Consolidation and the Moscow Summit

- President Lukashenko is set to participate in the Supreme State Council of the Union State in Moscow on February 26 to discuss seven major [integration agenda items](#).
- The meeting aims to review the implementation of the 2024-2026 integration plans and initiate drafting for the [2027-2029 period](#).
- Strategic alignment includes a "joint military grouping," a shared Orthodox tradition, and the elevation of Russian as a [state language](#) in Belarus.

## Central Asian Economic Expansion

- A Belarusian government delegation in Uzbekistan signed 10 documents for [product deliveries](#) totaling \$25 million.
- Trade between Minsk and Tashkent is rapidly approaching the [\\$850 million mark](#), with a strategic goal of \$1 billion.
- Joint ventures include a "copper cluster" in Uzbekistan and the localization of [Belarusian mining equipment](#).

## Security Escalation and Nuclear Rhetoric

- The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) and Belarusian media have circulated claims that Western powers plan to [arm Kyiv with nuclear](#) capabilities disguised as domestic Ukrainian developments.
- State analysts describe the NATO "Steadfast Defender" exercises as a [strategic deception](#) intended to practice troop transfers to the "Eastern Flank."
- Military officials warn of a projected "struggle for Belarus" by [the year 2030](#), necessitating immediate defense upgrades.

## Import Substitution and Industrial Modernization

- Belarusian scientists have developed lupin-based snacks to replace imported [soy and chickpea](#) products from Western markets.
- Bobruiskagromash has launched a project to produce [heavy-duty chassis](#) to ensure technological independence in the machinery sector.
- The forestry sector reported harvesting 9 million cubic meters of timber while focusing on [reforestation efforts](#).

## KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

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### AI and Technology Policy

- State media reports emphasize that AI should be used "in doses" and must be managed by "natural intelligence" to avoid [misinformation and fakes](#).
- The government is pushing for the automation of agriculture, including [robotic platforms](#) for livestock feeding and AI-driven health monitoring for cattle.
- A significant push is underway to develop [domestic software](#) for the automotive industry to reduce reliance on Western tech stacks.

### Cybersecurity and Financial Resilience

- The National Bank's Automated System for Incident Processing (ASOI) is now the central hub for [tracking fraudulent transactions](#) and blacklisting compromised devices.
- New financial standards effective July 1 will mandate [anti-fraud systems](#) across all commercial banks to monitor "session" and "transactional" behavioral anomalies.

### Economic Security and Labor

- Changes to the Social Protection Fund (FSZN) regulations now allow individual entrepreneurs (IPs) to pay contributions based on [actual income](#) rather than a minimum wage threshold, providing relief for those with unstable earnings.
- However, social benefits for IPs and self-employed individuals are now strictly tied to [length of service](#) and actual contribution amounts.

## Energy Security and Critical Infrastructure

- Belarus continues to contrast its energy stability with a "half-dead" European industry suffering from the [rejection of Russian](#) resources.
- Criticism is directed at Poland's plans for a [second nuclear plant](#) (with US-based Westinghouse), framing it as an inconsistent policy given the West's criticism of the Belarusian NPP.
- Technological efforts are focused on [fusion energy research](#) and securing access to critical minerals, with state media eyeing Greenland's neodymium and dysprosium reserves.

## LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

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Legislative activity focused on digitalizing social services and refining tax burdens for small businesses, while executive decrees expanded Belarus's diplomatic and commercial footprint in the Middle East and Central Asia.

### BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **FSZN Contribution Amendment:** A policy shift allowing individual entrepreneurs to pay 35% of [actual net income](#) if it falls below 12 minimum wages, intended to reduce the financial load on small businesses.
- **National Bank Decree No. 17:** Establishes mandatory [anti-fraud standards](#) for all commercial banks, requiring the use of digital device fingerprinting and behavioral analysis.

- **Housing Service Digitalization:** Expansion of the "E-posluga" portal to include [rental housing applications](#) and queue management for those needing improved conditions.

## HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Presidential Address on Defense:** Lukashenko presented [general's epaulettes](#) to top officers, emphasizing that without "people in uniform," the country would cease to exist.
- **Cabinet Economic Report:** An unusually blunt session where Lukashenko reviewed [economic shortcomings](#) and urged ministers to stop "unnecessary embellishment" of reality.
- **SVR Strategic Warning:** A briefing by the Russian SVR warned of a long-term "decades-long" period of [radical global change](#) and a specific threat to Belarusian sovereignty by 2030.

## DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

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### The Rhetoric of Western Decay vs. Eastern Vitality

A dominant theme is the portray of the European Union as a failing project. State media describes Germany as a "rusted locomotive" and the EU as moving toward "totalitarian management" where national vetoes are [being abolished](#). This is systematically contrasted with the "dynamic" growth in Uzbekistan (7.7% GDP growth) and the "reliable" partnership with Russia. The US is frequently mocked for its perceived inability to handle domestic crises, such as a recent [severe snowstorm](#) that paralyzed New York and Philadelphia, used as a metaphor for a

broader technological and infrastructural "collapse."

## Historical Revisionism as a Geopolitical Tool

History is being weaponized to counter Polish influence. State broadcasts detailed the "\$600 billion" in Soviet aid given to Poland post-WWII, arguing that modern Poland's "historical amnesia" regarding its liberation by the Red Army is a [form of dehumanization](#). Furthermore, Belarus is preparing [legal claims](#) against Poland for the "fascist-style" occupation of Western Belarus between 1919 and 1939, positioning these reparations as a counter-demand to Polish claims against Russia.

## Sovereignty Through "Import Substitution"

Governance is increasingly focused on "micro-sovereignty." This ranges from high-tech military hardware like the "Sapphire" RPG—developed to be [independent of foreign components](#)—to mundane items like food. The promotion of "Lupin sticks" as a national breakfast alternative [to Western snacks](#) is not merely culinary; it is framed as a strategic move to ensure the "economic security of the country."

## STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

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### Short Term (1-4 Weeks)

- The February 26 summit in Moscow will likely result in the signing of [binding agreements](#) on further economic and military integration, potentially including new joint defense production lines.

- Expect a surge in "spring-summer" military campaign preparations in the region as analysts predict [decisive battles](#) in the Ukraine conflict will begin once "foliage appears" in April/May.

### Medium Term (1-6 Months)

- Implementation of the [anti-fraud banking standards](#) by July 1 will likely increase the state's ability to monitor private financial flows under the guise of cybersecurity.
- Trade with Uzbekistan is expected to reach the [\\$1 billion target](#) as new joint poultry and machinery ventures go online.
- Belarus will open its [embassy in Oman](#), signaling a deeper commitment to the Middle Eastern trade corridor.

### Long Term (1-5 Years)

- State planning is now oriented toward the "2030 struggle," suggesting the government is preparing for prolonged [geopolitical isolation](#) from the West and total reliance on the BRICS/Union State framework.
- Development of domestic [monoclonal antibody technologies](#) and vaccine production will aim to establish Belarus as a regional biotech hub, independent of Western pharmaceutical supply chains.

## RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

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### For International Policy:

- Diplomats should monitor the [Union State summit](#) for signs of permanent Russian military basing or new nuclear-sharing arrangements, given the escalating rhetoric.

- The Belarusian pivot to Central Asia and Africa (Togo, Nigeria) indicates a successful circumvention of [traditional sanctions](#) through secondary markets.
- The rhetoric regarding Poland suggests a high risk of [border provocations](#) or hybrid legal warfare (reparations claims) in the coming months.

### **For Private Sector/Investors:**

- Investors in Central Asia should note the "Uzbekistan-Belarus" corridor as an emerging [logistics hub](#) for goods entering and leaving the EAEU.
- The push for [wooden house construction](#) and subsidized forestry products offers a domestic growth niche but is vulnerable to shifts in Union State energy pricing.
- Cybersecurity firms should expect [increased demand](#) for behavioral analytics and anti-fraud software as Belarus mandates these for all banking entities by mid-2026.

## **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

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**Today's Media Trends** is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

### **No data is used to train or tune any AI model.**

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

This report is entirely machine generated using Gemini 3 and may include errors and omissions. Please verify all findings. No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

For questions or suggestions, please contact [kalev.leetaru5@gmail.com](mailto:kalev.leetaru5@gmail.com). You can also learn more about the GDELT Project at <https://blog.gdeltproject.org/> and the Internet Archive's TV News Archive at <https://archive.org/details/tv>.